AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE(tm) REPORT #1260 - OCT. 5, 2001

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1260 with a release date of Friday, October 5th, 2001 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T.

A big week for ham radio in space as A-O 40 proves G-P-S works in space and P C Sat goes into orbit. These stories are first on Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1260 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: GPS EXPERIMENT COULD REVOLUTIONIZE SPACE TRAVEL

AMSAT reports another success with its AO 40 satellite that holds the promise of changing the way men travel into space. This, with word that that the on board Global Positioning System -- or G-P-S experiment has now undergone successful testing. Roy Neal, K6DUE, has the details:

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ABOUT 20 YEARS AGO THE AIR FORCE PUT A RING OF SATELLITES IN ORBIT CALLED THE GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM, “G-P-S”. THEY WERE DESIGNED TO SHOW WHERE IN THE WORLD YOU ARE, WITH PINPOINT ACCURACY. THE AIR FORCE USED THEM TO GUIDE MISSILES AND MILITARY AIRCRAFT.

THE SYSTEM WAS MADE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC USE A FEW YEARS LATER AND HAS BECAME A MAINSTAY FOR NAVIGATING AIRLINERS, SHIPS AT SEA, TRUCKS AND CARS ON THE HIGHWAYS AND EVEN HIKERS . NASA WANTED TO KNOW IF GPS ALSO COULD BE USED TO PROVIDE POSITIONAL DATA OUTSIDE ITS RING OF SATELLITES. THE SPACE AGENCY TURNED TO AMATEUR RADIO’S AMSAT CORPORATION TO HELP WITH AN EXPERIMENT.

NASA PROVIDED TWO G-P-S RECEIVERS WHICH WERE INSTALLED ON THE A0-40 SATELLITE. THE “A” RECEIVER TO TUNE IN AT APOGEE, THE HIGHEST POINT IN ORBIT., THE “B” RECEIVER WOULD LISTEN AT PERIGEE, THE LOW POINT.

JIM WHITE, WD0E, THE AMSAT COORDINATOR AND CHIEF OPERATOR, HAS JUST MADE HIS FIRST REPORT ON THE ACTIVITY. HE SAID ”WE RECEIVED A SIGNAL FROM ABOUT 52 THOUSAND KILOMETERS OUT WITH GOOD SIGNAL LEVELS. FURTHER DATE IS BEING GATHERED AND THOSE DOWNLOADED SO FAR ARE BEING ANALYZED.”

THEY WERE DOWNLINKED THROUGH THE A0-40 S-BAND TRANSMITTER. AMSAT VICE PRESIDENT FRANK BAUER, KA3HDO, WHO WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN SETTING UP THE EXPERIMENT, SAID IT WILL REVOLUTIONIZE THE WAY GPS IS USED IN SPACE. BAUER SAID MANY FUTURE HIGH EARTH ORBITING SATELLITES WILL BE ABLE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF GPS FOR AUTONOMOUS NAVIGATION AND STATIONKEEPING

FOR THE AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE…ROY NEAL, K6DUE.

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The bottom line. It now looks as if a ham radio satellite may help change the way men and machines travel to and from space. (AMSAT, K6DUE)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE:  KODIAK STAR ORBITS PCSAT

The long awaited Kodiak Star launch, carrying the P C SAT ham radio satellite into orbit is a success.  According to the AMSAT News Service, the launch took place from Kodiak Alaska at 02:40 UTC on Sunday morning September 30th.

Initial Information indicates that all satellites were successfully deployed, and that the amateur radio satellites have been heard by hams in many countries.  One of the first reports came from Derek Studholme ZL1AKJ  of AMSAT-New Zealand.  Derek said that stations down-under heard good telemetry signals from P C Sat's  first two passes over New Zealand

The launch of the Kodiak Star had been delayed several times due to weather conditions and Solar Flares.  On board the launch vehicle were the P C Sat, Sapphire and Starshine satellites.  P C Sat is a Naval Academy Amateur Radio satellite. The Sapphire satellite also has Naval Academy involvement in a joint venture with Washington University.  Starshine was the primary NASA payload. (AMSAT Remailer, VHF Reflector, ZL1AKJ)

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ATTACK ON AMERICA:  TWO MORE HAMS MISSING AT WTC

Amateur radio operations have now wound down but there is more sad news from what's become known as 'Ground Zero' in New York City.  It now appears that two more hams may have lost their lives in the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center.

The ARRL Letter says that Rod Coppola, KA2KET, was the transmitter engineer on duty for Public Broadcasting station WNET, channel 13 at the time the attack occurred.  Coppola is 46 and lives in New York City.

Also missing is Winston Grant, KA2DRF.  Grant is a computer technician with Empire Blue Cross - Blue Shield.  He is 59 and lives in West Hempstead, New York.  Neither man has been seen since the twin towers collapsed after being hit by hijacked jetliners on September 11th.  (ARRL)

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ATTACK ON AMERICA:  FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR MISSING ENGINEERS FAMILIES

In a related development, the Portland Chapter of the Society of Broadcast Engineers and the ARRL both report that a fund has been established to assist the families of broadcast engineers still missing at the collapsed World Trade Center.  Checks can be sent to the Ennes Educational Foundation Trust  % The Society of Broadcast Engineers Inc, 9247 N Meridian St., Suite 305, Indianapolis, Indiana.  The Zipcode is  46260.  Please mark your envelope to the attention of the "Broadcast Engineer Relief Fund."  (ARRL, Portland SBE)

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AMERICA UNDER ATTACK:  INDIANA HAMS SET UP COMMS AT GROUND ZERO

Ham radio operators from Indiana were among those who made the trek to New York City to aid in rescue efforts after the September 11th terrorist attack.  Their job was communications.  Amateur News Weekly's Jack Parker, W8ISH, has more:

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Thirty-six hours after the first airplane crashed into the World Trade Center Indiana's Task Force One was standing at the ground zero.  Among the 62 members of this elite Search and Rescue team were two Indianapolis amateur radio operators.

Veteran firefighter Jim Curseaden, KB9ZFF and Ed Elrod, W9PTO made the 14 hour road trip to help with disaster efforts.  Both men make up the communications arm of this search and rescue team.

The moment they arrived each man began setting up a UHF communications link from the ground zero to their staging point several miles away at the Javis convention center.  According to Jim Curseaden, getting UHF signals through the concrete canyon of New York City was a major challenge.

Ed Elrod said they first installed a repeater on a nearby building and directed a
Yagi antenna at the mountain of rubble.  The Javis convention center posed another radio obstacle.  Hand held radios could not reach the repeater.

To fix this problem, Elrod wired a up a remote base on the roof of the convention
center.  This new link made it possible to communicate with the Indiana search and rescue personnel above and below the world trade center ruins.  Ed Elrods most inspirational moment came during his second trip out of the devastation.

All week hundreds of people had been lining the streets, cheering and showing signs of support.  When heavy rains began dousing New York the crowds disappeared...He said the contrast was amazing.  The streets were nearly empty; except for one lonely figure standing in the rain.  It was an elderly woman, holding a sign that read: "Thank You."

Reporting from Indianapolis, this is Jack Parker, W8ISH

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The hams from Indianapolis were not the only ones who traveled to New York City to help in relief efforts.  We plan to profile others in future Amateur Radio Newsline reports.  (ARN, W8ISH)

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BREAK 1

This is one of many voices from the United States of America.  We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world, including the Arkansas Radio Emergency Services Net serving Little Rock Arkansas.

(5 sec pause here)

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ATTACK ON AMERICA:  DOD WILL NOT GIVE UP ESSENTIAL SPECTRUM

In the wake of the September 11th terrorist attacks on New York City and the Pentagon, the Defense Department has renewed support for its view that it shouldn't give up its spectrum to make room for consumer wireless products. Congressional auditors say that the proposed changes now could pose a further threat to national security.  Amateur Radio Newsline's Norm Seeley, KI7UP, has more

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Supporters of the mobile communications industry still say that transfer of some current military spectrum to the private sector is essential to fill the high demand for such services as the next generation of mobile phones and wireless Internet access.  But Congresses' General Accounting Office says that if the Defense Department makes room for new wireless consumer products before more research is conducted, it could endanger the nation because of potential interference with Pentagon operations.

And it goes even further.  Defense Department officials say that besides creating interference, moving all defense systems out of the current spectrum would take until 2017.  That, says the DoD,  would cost billions of dollars to orbit new satellites and otherwise accommodate military needs.

In the meantime, the Federal Communications Commission announced on September 24th that it will expand the possible uses of the 2500 to 2690 MHz band.  That spectrum is currently used for fixed wireless services.  New rues may eventually include a mobile component so that the spectrum can be used for 3 G services such as high-speed Internet access or music and video downloads.

The FCC says that it had considered reallocating the 2500 to 2690 band as a primary allocation to new 3 G wireless service.  Because of the outcry against taking the spectrum from schools and other incumbent users it instead voted to create a possible shared allocation instead.

The FCC says that the flexible allocation would allow some portable data applications to be offered under existing service rules and could provide flexibility for offering other new advanced fixed and mobile services in the future.  But it added that it would have to explore service rules that would apply to allow mobile operations in the band in a separate future rule-making proceeding.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Norm Seeley, KI7UP.

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A September 2002 deadline by Congress for an auction of new spectrum licenses for wireless services might be delayed because of the Pentagon's resistance to any allocation change.  (Published news reports, FCC actions)

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AMERICA UNDER ATTACK:  HAM RADIO TRACKS THE RUN FOR AMERICA

They did it to show support to the firefighters, law enforcement agents and all Americans involved in the effort to rescue the victims of the recent act of terrorism.  This, as Navy Ensigns Daniel Campos and Christine Fix, coordinated a relay run to carry our national flag from Virginia to New York City.

The goal was to carry the Stars and Stripes from the Pentagon to the World Trade Center.  The run began on Friday September 28th and continued overnight until they arrived about 1800 UTC Saturday.  Their route was tracked using the Global Positioning System capability of the United States Naval Academy's Ham Radio club.  Computer generated maps were able to show live the progress of the runners along the way.  (VHF Reflector)

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ATTACK ON AMERICA:  MOROCCO CQWW CONTEST STATION CANCELS

The September 11th terrorist attack is now having an effect in the world of ham radio contesting.  This, as Al Crespo, NH7A, tells the Ohio Penn DX news that his CN2AC CQ World Wide SSB Contest operation from Morocco has been canceled.  Al says that he will instead operate from Maui using his NH7A callsign.  (OPDX)

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HAM RADIO HELPING HAND:  IHS NEEDS OPERATORS FOR HONDURAS

International Health Services says that it needs ham radio operators to accompany medical and dental teams to villages in Honduras.  According to an Internet posting by John Kirckof, KB0UUP, most of these villages I-H-S visits have no electricity or phones.  Kickof says that IHS is often are the only medical care these local people will ever see:

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In-Q: Honduras is the...
Out-Q:...each mission in February.

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Kirckof, who is the Communications Director for I-H-S says the group will provide High Frequency gear for any operator who does not have his or her own portable rig.  Both men an women are welcome to apply.  Sign-up is now until about mid October.  For some basic information, visit www.ihsofmn.org or contact John by e-mail to jmkkek@runestone.net.  (KB0UUP, ARNewsline(tm))

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SURVEY:  CELL PHONE CURBS FAVORED WHILE DRIVING

Three out of four adults in the United States favor laws to curb the use of cellular telephones while driving.  This, according to a survey released by a highway safety group.  And its a survey that has some ham radio operators concerned as well.  Amateur Radio Newsline's Don Wilbanks, KC5MFA filed this report:

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The poll of 1,001 adults was carried out July 1st to the 19th by the Louis Harris organization for Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety. This is a coalition of consumer, health, safety and insurance groups who say that they are working to make U.S. roads safer. The results are almost startling.

Though nearly two out of three people surveyed report owning a cellular phone, the poll found a lopsided 76 percent backed restricting their use by drivers in motion except in emergencies. In fact, the poll found that mobile cellular phone use in vehicles topped the list of concerns that people wanted addressed. Cell phone use was closely followed by drunk driving and improving safety at intersections.

This poll and others like it are of concern to radio amateurs and operators of other mobile two-way radio gear. Currently, no federal law bars the use of cell phones while driving but several states
prohibit phones being held by hand while driving except in emergencies. Two-way radio users fear that any across the board federal ban on using a cellular phone while driving might also be
applied to other radio services as well.

Meantime, another report from the National Conference of State Legislatures says that laws suggesting bans on drivers using hand-held cell phones have now been proposed in 40 states. As previously reported, a measure in New York is recently won approval and at least a dozen municipalities have also established mobile cellular telephone bans.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline. I'm Don Wilbanks, KC5MFA, reporting from New Orleans.

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The survey also says that all of these enacted and proposed laws appear to have widespread public support. (From media releases and published news reports)

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SERVICES TO HAM RADIO: LOGBOOK TO THE WORLD UPDATE

Project Manager Wayne Mills, N7NG, says that access to the ARRL's proposed Logbook to the World will be for everyone. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, reports:

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In a note to Pete Smith, N4ZR, and posted to the VHF reflector, Wayne Mills says that the only charge will be for usage. Mills explains that there will be a charge when utilizing a QSO record for a specific award such as the DXCC, Islands On The Air, Worked All Zones and the like.

Mills says this means that users will only pay for what he calls usable "QSL's. You will not have to pay for attempts to get a QSL as you currently do when you send them via mail -- whether direct or via a bureau. Mills believes should result in a dramatic saving as compared to tradition methods of obtaining QSLs.

Mills also notes that five years is about as far back as Logbook of the World

will probably ever go.  Initially says Mills, it won't go back even that far. This he says will be an attempt to manage the initial data in-rush.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I’m Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF.

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In addition to his work on Logbook to the World, Wayne Mills, N7NG, is the Membership Services Manager for the American Radio Relay League.  (VHF Reflector)

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BREAK 2

This is ham radio in a free society calling.  We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, with links to the world from our only official website - www.arnewsline.org.

(5 sec pause here)

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ARNEWSLINE FUND REPORT:  THANKING OUR AUGUST SUPPORTERS

Ladies and gentlemen, with the August listener appreciation list, here is Amateur Radio Newsline support fund administrator Andy Jarema, N6TCQ.

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In the month of August we heard from:

Mt. Beacon ARC of Wappingers Falls, NY; Benton Bonney of Orlando; Hiram's Hams Amateur Radio Society of Miami.

A BIG thank you to Roy Blanchard, N5YHS of New Orleans; Mike King, W5PY of Slidell, LA; Daryl Stout, N5VLZ of Little Rock, AR; Robert Guidas, KB4ABF of Maynardville, TN; Radio Amateur Club of Knoxville, TN; Richard Wolf, WI8X also of Knoxville.

Monthly contributor Frank Hemko of Harrods Creek KY; Robert Majkrzak, KA8WQL and Cheryl Turner, KB8YKA of Berea, OH and  Wally Willhard, W7MVK of Bountiful, UT.

From California, William Walters of San Jose; Daniel Hart, KE6UHG from Bakersfield; Robert Vitzelio, W6AEJ of Downey; our friends at the Pasadena Radio Club, W6KA and our old friend and star of last month's QST Magazine, Dave Bell, W6AQ of Hollywood.

Andy Jarema, N6TCQ.  Thank you for your support.

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More with Andy and the support fund in future newscasts.  (ARNewsline Support Fund)

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INTERNATIONAL - GUATEMALA:  A BIG UHF WIN FOR HAM RADIO

A big win for ham radio in Guatemala.  The Club de Radioaficionados de Guatemala says that nations spectrum regulators are returning  the 430 to 440 MHz band to Amateur Radio use.  Amateur Radio Newsline's Bill Burnett, KT4SB, reports from Miami.

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It was five years ago, back in 1996, when the Guatemalan government suddenly banned hams from access that spectrum.  Guatemala then auctioned those frequencies to commercial operations.

But reports out of Guatemala soon said that the reallocation was not working they way the government had envisioned.  No reasons were given.  Now comes word through AMSAT that these new users will be moved elsewhere and the 430 to 440 MHz band will be returned to its former use in Amateur Radio operations.

And in the hope of preventing this kind of an arbitrary reallocation from ever taking place again, the Guatemalan national Amateur Radio society says that it will ask the International  Telecommunications Union to add a footnote to its table of allocations at the World Radiocommunication Conference 2003.  One that will give the Amateur Radio service primary status from 430 to 440 MHz in that country.

From Miami, I'm Bill Burnett, KT4SB, reporting for the Amateur Radio Newsline.

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The Club de Radioaficionados de Guatemala had petitioned the Guatemalan government to reverse its decision removing ham radio operations from the 70 centimeter band.  (ARRL, AMSAT, Q-News, CRG, others)

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INTERNATIONAL:  BIG VK SITE FEES WIN

Hams down-under in V-K land are also celebrating after surviving a threat. This,  to their use of several key repeater sites.  Q-News Graham Kemp, VK4BB, has the details from Melbourne Australia:

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Rob VK2MT reports on APC News  that local clubs were faced with annual site bills of up to $3000.  A lot of "e" and snail-mail correspondence was generated plus a couple  of visits to Members of Parliament, both at the State & Federal level.  What became obvious after about a month, was that the "softly-softly" approach -- while still holding a big stick -- was perhaps the way to go.

Well, just over 3 months later and the dust has settled.  Illawarra  have been officially informed that there will be a maximum figure of  $300.00 attached to each existing Amateur Club that has equipment at a  TransGrid site.  Also, they won't be charged per antenna  -- as was going to  be the case, all existing and

documented by TransGrid antennas will be part of the deal.

For Q-News Australia, Im Graham Kemp, VKBB, reporting for the Amateur Radio Newsline.

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Clubs will have to satisfy several provisos, such as insurance, priority of commercial users and the like. Overall though it is a satisfactory outcome for amateurs and clubs, who could have faced fees ten times as much. (Q-News)

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INTERNATIONAL - JAPAN: WRTC-2002 AT HAM FAIR 2001

According to a recent WRTC press release, Yaesu will be the principle radio equipment supplier for WRTC 2002. This as WRTC representatives Martti Lane, OH2BH and Dennis Motschenbacher, K7BV sign a major sponsoring agreement with Jun Hasegawa, president of Vertex Standard Co.Ltd. Vertex Standard manufactures the Yaesu line of ham radio gear.

Lane and Motschenbacher signed the agreement while in Japan to represent WRTC 2002 at the recent "Ham Fair" in Yokohama. While at Ham Fair they invited Tack Kumagai, JE1CKA to act as the WRTC 2002 representative in Japan. Kumagai has accepted the post. (WRTC-2002 Press Release)

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DX

In DX, yet another successful super low frequency report across the Pacific. Jeramy Boot, G4NJH, has more:

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Low frequency signals have crossed the Pacific for the second time. During the Autumn equinox on the 21st of September, a number of New Zealand and Australian stations sent extremely slow Morse on their 165 to 190kHz LF band. Part of the signal from ZL6QH was received by VE7SL in south-west Canada just before his dawn, fading out some three minutes after sunrise. The path length is estimated to be 11,709 kilometres.

Radiated power was estimated to be 5 watts and the antenna was a long wire at the Quartz Hill club station, which is run by the Wellington Amateur Radio Club. Reception of a complete callsign is the next challenge. The short duration of the opening means that a faster mode must be used, but this is likely to worsen an already marginal signal to noise ratio. Permission is also being sought for ZL6QH to operate in the 136kHz band
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Because of the extremely slow speed of the contact there is no audio to share with you. In fact, reception requires a computer and a special decoding program. Our thanks to Bob Vernall, ZL2CA, for much of the information on this historic radio event. (ZL2CA, RSGB)

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THE FINAL ITEM:  BANDPLANS ARE IMPORTANT TO THE FCC - PART 2

And finally this week, we take another look at the FCC's position on voluntary bandplans in the Amateur Radio service.  According to the Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Riley Hollingsworth there are two kinds of problems the FCC sees.  The first is the operator who simply does not know that a specific bandplan exists:

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"Now, in the first case, not knowing about the bandplan.  Thats more understandable than you might think at first.  Unless an oprator really keeps up with Amateur publications including League publications, they wont know about the bandplans."

"Now, a lot of operators have a list of frequencies on which they are authorized to operate and they keep it right at the operating desk.  I'd recommend having a second sheet with that frequency list that describes the bandplan for each band.  In some ways the bandplans are more complex than the frequency list, but in fact they don't really inconvenience anyone and they really do enhance Amateur Radio and make it a lot more interesting -- and make it possible to do a lot more experimenting."

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But what about that small but vocal group of hams who simply refuse to abide by bandplans by claiming its their right not to.  For these people, Hollingsworth has some words as well:

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"That attitude is very destructive, and they just can't stand it that there just might be an area where they just should not go because of a bandplan."

"Now, they do not stop to think that QRP or PSK-31 could not exist without bandplans.  The fact that they have about 3,850 other desecrate frequencies, and don't have to bother the folks in the bandplan set-aside segments -- for example on 160 meters in the CW bandplan recommended segment -- that never occurs to them."

"And of coarse if they were adhering to a bandplan and someone bothered them, they would be the first to knock on the FCC's door."

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As Hollingsworth stated last week, these are hams who are totally focused on rights and could care less about responsibilities.  They do not care about the damage that they do to Amateur Radio and do not have a clue as to how much pressure is on our frequencies from entities that would like to see them taken away.  (RAIN)

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, Amateur News Weekly, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB and Australia's Q-News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Mert Garlick, N6AWE, saying God Bless America, 73, and we thank you for listening."
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